

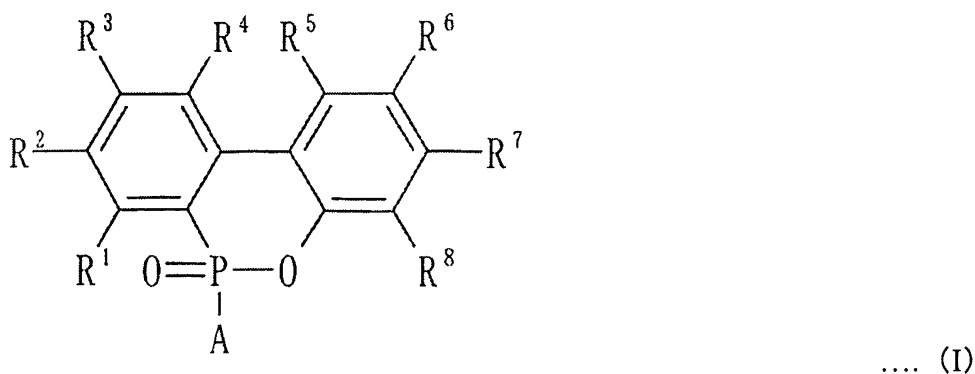
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS, COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS IN  
ASCENDING ORDER WITH STATUS INDICATOR**

Please amend the following claims as indicated.

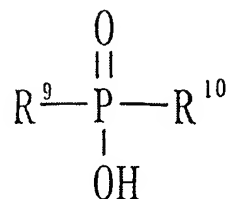
1. (Currently Amended) A water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin prepared by a condensation reaction or a polycondensation reaction of a dicarboxylic-acid component, a glycol component, a water-solubility imparting component and a reactive phosphorus-containing compound such that a ratio of the water-solubility imparting component in a total of the dicarboxylic-acid component and the water-solubility imparting component is in a range of 1 to ~~60~~ 40 mol%,

wherein the water-solubility imparting component comprises at least one of a tribasic acid anhydride and a tetrabasic acid anhydride, and

wherein the reactive phosphorus-containing compound is at least one selected from compounds represented by the following general formulas (I), (II) and (III):

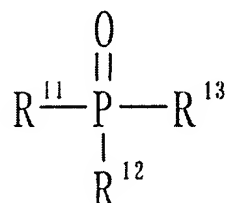


wherein, in the formula I, "R<sup>1</sup>" to "R<sup>8</sup>" respectively designate hydrogen atom or an organic group, which may be equal to or different from each other, "A" designates hydrogen atom or an organic group, which may be equal to or different from "R<sup>1</sup>" to "R<sup>8</sup>", but at least one of "R<sup>1</sup>" to "R<sup>8</sup>" and "A" has an ester-forming functional group,



.... (II)

wherein, in the formula II, “R<sup>9</sup>” and “R<sup>10</sup>” respectively designate hydrogen atom or an organic group, which may be equal to or different from each other, but at least one of “R<sup>9</sup>” and “R<sup>10</sup>” has an ester-forming functional group,



.... (III)

wherein, in the formula III, “R<sup>11</sup>” to “R<sup>13</sup>” respectively designate hydrogen atom or an organic group, which may be equal to or different from each other, but at least one of “R<sup>11</sup>” to “R<sup>13</sup>” has an ester-forming functional group.

2. (Original) The water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin as set forth in claim 1, wherein amounts of phosphorus atoms derived from the reactive phosphorus-containing compound are in a range of 300 to 100000 ppm.

3. (Original) The water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin as set forth in claim 1, wherein the reactive phosphorus-containing compound has at least one ester-forming functional group selected from a carboxyl group and a hydroxyl group.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Original) The water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin as set forth in claim 1, wherein the water-solubility imparting component comprises a dicarboxylic-acid component with a metal sulfonate group.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) The water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin as set forth in claim 1, wherein the water-solubility imparting component comprises both of a dicarboxylic-acid component with a metal sulfonate group and said at least one of a tribasic acid anhydride and a tetrabasic acid anhydride, and wherein an amount of the water-solubility imparting component is in a range of 2 to 40 mol% with respect to the total amount of the dicarboxylic acid component and the water-solubility imparting component.

8. (Original) The water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin as set forth in claim 1, wherein the water-solubility imparting component comprises one of 5-sodium sulfoisophthalic acid and an ester thereof as an dicarboxylic-acid component with a metal sulfonate group.

9. (Original) The water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin as set forth in claim 1, wherein the water-solubility imparting component comprises at least one of trimellitic anhydride of a tribasic acid anhydride and pyromellitic dianhydride of a tetrabasic acid anhydride.

10. (Original) A resin composition containing the water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin as set forth in claim 1.

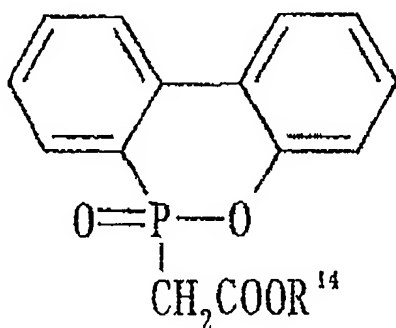
11. (Original) The resin composition as set forth in claim 10 prepared for fiber processing.

12. (Original) The resin composition as set forth in claim 10 prepared for a surface treatment of polyester films.

13. (Original) A fiber product treated by use of the resin composition as set forth in claim 10.

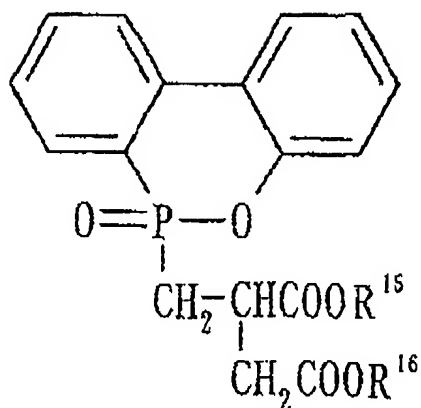
14. (New) The water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin as set forth in claim 1, wherein said at least one of a tribasic acid anhydride and a tetrabasic acid anhydride is used as the water-solubility imparting component by itself, and an amount of the water-solubility imparting component is in a range of 5 to 40 mol% with respect to the total amount of the dicarboxylic acid component and the water-solubility imparting component.

15. (New) The water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin as set forth in claim 1, wherein the reactive phosphorus-containing compound represented by the general formula (I) is selected from compounds represented by the following chemical formulas (a) to (e)



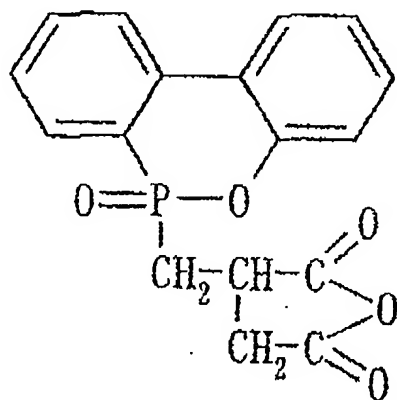
.....(a)

wherein, in the formula "a", "R<sup>14</sup>" designates hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alicyclic group having a carbon number of 1 to 6,

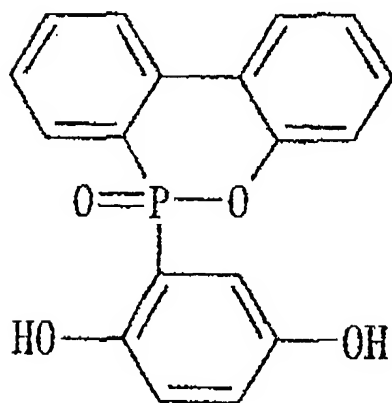


.....(b)

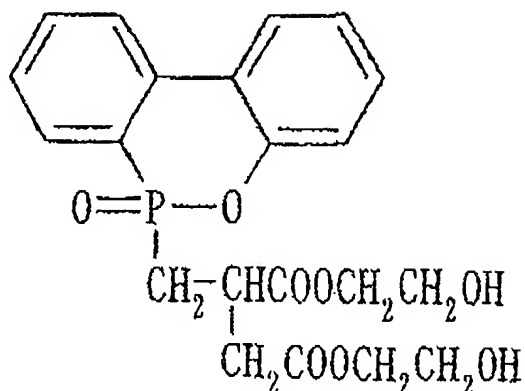
wherein, in the formula "b", "R<sup>15</sup>" and "R<sup>16</sup>" respectively designate hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alicyclic group having a carbon number of 1 to 6, "R<sup>15</sup>" and "R<sup>16</sup>" may be equal to or different from each other,



.....(c)

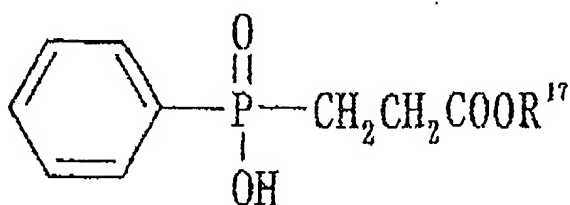


.....(d)



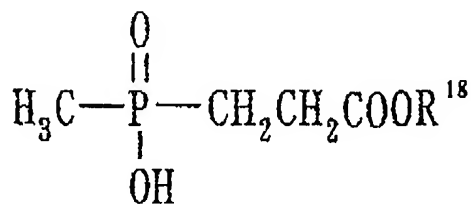
.....(e).

16. (New) The water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin as set forth in claim 1, wherein the reactive phosphorus-containing compound represented by the general formula (II) is selected from compounds represented by the following chemical formulas (f) and (g),



.....(f)

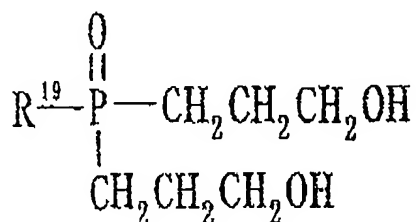
wherein, in the formula "f", "R<sup>17</sup>" designates hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alicyclic group having a carbon number of 1 to 6,



.....(g)

wherein, in the formula "g", "R<sup>18</sup>" designates hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alicyclic group having a carbon number of 1 to 6.

17. (New) The water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin as set forth in claim 1, wherein the reactive phosphorus-containing compound represented by the general formula (III) is represented by the following chemical formula (h).



.....(h)

wherein, in the formula “h”, “R<sup>19</sup>” designates hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alicyclic group having a carbon number of 1 to 6.

18. (New) The water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin as set forth in claim 1, wherein compounding amounts of the dicarboxylic acid component, glycol component, water-solubility imparting component and the reactive phosphorus-containing compound are determined such that a molar ratio of a total number of carboxyl groups and the ester-forming derivative groups in the respective components : a total number of hydroxyl groups and the ester-forming derivative groups in the respective components is in a range of 1 : 1 to 2.5.

19. (New) The water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin as set forth in claim 1, wherein a number-average molecular weight of the water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin is in a range of 5000 to 50000.

20. (New) The water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin as set forth in claim 1, wherein an intrinsic viscosity of the water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin is in a range of 0.05 to 1.0.

21. (New) The water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin as set forth in claim 20, wherein the intrinsic viscosity is in a range of 0.12 to 0.9.

22. (New) The water-soluble, flame retardant polyester resin as set forth in claim 20, wherein the intrinsic viscosity is in a range of 0.2 to 0.9.